"SUPPORT" OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

We observe that the Morning Chronicle renews its complaint that we do not give to the Administration, in all its departments and in all its mea sures of policy, "the value of that steady, hearty, and unquestioning support which they undoubtedly deserve," and cites a number of instances in which we have expressed dissent rather than approval.

We submit to our zealous contemporary that it might better serve the cause of dignified discussion by addressing itself to our arguments than by computing the number of the occasions on which we have presumed to differ from the Administration. Especially would this course seem to be proper when, as our neighbor is pleased to say, we have brought a "characteristic ability and an unusual industry" to the series of "animadversions" that form the grounds of its complaint. Until the Morning Chronicle has in some way disposed of these arguments, we must continue to give to the Administration the "value" of a "support" which is not "unquestioning," like that of our neighbor, (as perhaps becomes the ambition of an official journal,) but a support based on our own independent and candid convictions of public duty. " More pleased to praise, yet not afraid to blame," we trust that, alike in the bestowal of praise and blame, we have shown that we had a better purpose than either to find the Administration always right or always wrong, and though we may have fallen far below the standard of that "unquestioning" acquiescence prescribed to itself by the Chronicle as equally a duty and a pleasure, we feel well assured that some at least of the "constituted authorities," consisting as they do of more than the depositaries of a single department, are able to appreciate the "value" of a "support" which has some stability for its basis, remembering, according to that fine phrase of the French, that one can lean only on that which has some power of resistance.

REPUBLICAN CLAMORS.

The earnest adjurations addressed to us by one of the two papers which sustain the Administration with a constancy that never falters receive little reinforcement from other leading Republican journals. If we took to ourselves the latitude of complaint and the importunity of demand allowed to those of the latter which stand the highest in reputation for "loyalty" and influence, we should be astonished at our intrepidity. Latterly we observe that the Republican journals which "stand by the President" and the "Proclamation" show the "composition and fierce quality" of their support by "demanding" the removal of Mr. Secretary SEWARD from the place he holds at the head of the Cabinet and of Gen. HALLECK from the place he holds at the head of our armies. This is the latest style of or the other of these solicitations, we suppose we shall be charged with indifference to the welfare of the Republic. In order to place on record one of these invocations, and to signify our disapproval of of his official engagements, we quote the following from the Chicago Tribune of Monday last. Speaking of Gen. Halleck, our contemporary says :

Nothing in his hands seems to prosper.

his Western campaign-failed signally and lamentablyjust where a man of more aptitude for affairs and far less sarning would have won brilliant and enduring success In his dealings with that man McClellan he was unfortunate enough to encounter dislike, but not firm enough to command obedience His choice of agents for securing the success of Pope could not have been worse. When the command of that army of the Potomac was given to Burnside, Halleck's obstinate prejudice against Hooker and ill placed pertinacity for his competitor with the President were the reasons that the leadership went where it did. We all know the result. The hopeless but desperate valor of our men at Fredericksburg has written it in letters unjustly; but the sctors in that Vicksburg tragedy justify themselves by charging the disaster upon Gen. Halleck, who ordered what was done. And so disaster has succeeded disaster, reverse has followed reverse, until the country. exhausted of its patience and weary of the delay, calls impatiently for a change and for relief. In saying what we do we only re-echo the cry that comes to us from every quarter—get Gen. Halleck out of the way and let victory step in. Devoutly believing that the instruct of the country not wrong, and that all men may judge of the success of one or any number of campaigns after results have been achieved, we entreat the President to listen to the country's ery and show his willingness to meet the popular demand. We assure him that in his own thorough loyalty and patriotism, in his desire to make an end to the rebellion and of the rebele, the country has unlimited faith. If any blame it is for tardiness to act when the emergency demanding promptoess and decision arrives. If any censure it is b cause he permits his own sterling sense to be subordinated theories that have not been proved. If any are restive it is because he will not judge his subordinates by the results that they attain rather than by the pretensions they make If any sperit is when they ask how much time will elapse before the President finds out that his next in command is incapable of filling his place. How much longer, all men inquire, shall we endure—bow many more campaigns like Pope's, how many reverses like that at Fredericksburg, how many disgraces patterned after that at Vicksburg, shall we encounter-before a change is resolved upon, and a man of affairs is put in place of the man of the closet? 'Old brains' is a good sobriquet; but young victory' would meet the national want far better

On the following day our intensely Republican contemporary of Chicago pursued this topic as follows, joining Mr. Seward this time with Gen. Halleck in its enumeration of "the objects of the uext sacrifice." It said:

"The Senate is impatient, and so is the country. The first wants Seward's place filled by a man of action. There has been enough of philosophical phrase making, and halting and of cowardice overmuch, say the members thereof. The country cries out against Halleck with an unanimous voice, demanding that he, too, shall go. The President is impassive yet, and, furious Senators say, by and by. Seward has leisure at Auburn to talk over with Weed the causes of his fall, and Halleck is sent to condole with McClellan, the agreement among all that the President did wisely to wait will be cordial. So let those who, like boys under tutilage, aver that they can't wait, try to make their cases as comfertable as may be. They know, or should know, as well as we, that Mr. Ljucoln is in dead earnest; that to put down this rebellion in the quickest, cheapent, and earlest method is the object of his life; that he has no ambition which does not accord with the highest interests of his country; that he has thus far evin sagacity far superior to that of his assistants; and that, henever the heap is stirred, he always comes out a-top. We are content to measure our desires by his motions.

But in the mean time we warn their friends not to be confident that Seward and Halleck will keep their places. If they bet, let the wager be laid on removal; because, as sure as that the war continues, they will both go. The instincts of the people are unerring, and they long ago marked the objects of the next sacrifice. As Cameron, as Porter, as Buell, as McClellan went, so will go the men of whom we speak. The real-zation of public expecta-tion may be deferred; but it will come."

Indiana papers refer to the recent difficulty between squad of eavalry, sent from Indianapolis to arrest deserters, and citizens of Morgan county. They deny that there was any organized resistance, but allege that the cavalry grossty imposed upon innecent and unoffending parties—that they ruthlessly destroyed the property and seized the horses and insulted the families of peaceable citizens. The facts will be investigated.

A FOREIGN MILITARY JUDGMENT.

In one of the desputches of Mr. MOTLEY, our accomplished Minister at the Court of Vienna, w find the following reference to the opinion express ed (we suppose by a military critic) in the principal journal of the Austrian Empire relative to the qualities displayed by Gen. McCLELLAN in effect ing his retreat from the Chickahominy swamps to the James river after the unfortunate repulse of his right wing. Mr. MOTLEY, in his despatch to Mr. SEWARD, SAYS:

"I deem worthy of your notice a brief extract from a emarkable series of papers in the principal journal of this empire, in which the course of our campaigns is criticized, sometimes severely, but never ungenerously; always with talent, and with thorough knowledge of the subject, topographically and strategetically, and with a firm disposition o do justice. You will be interested to read the comments of so able a writer upon the withdrawal of our ar

mies to the James river: ". It is not to be wondered at, then, if the General-in-Chief of the Army of the Potomac was in haste to save the army catrusted to him from the dangers surrounding it, even from certain destruction; from a noose, in fact, which required only to be drawn a little more closely together in order to sufficate the Soul of the Union. The manner in which be acquitted himself of this most difficult of all military tasks redounds to his infinite honor, and places him at once in the ranks of those memorable commanders whose names history treasures for posterity; men who, if they have perhaps not had the art to chain victory to their anners, possessed, at any rate, the fortitude, the audscity, and the circumspection to rescue their armies from im-pending ruin. . . . The American General has made a pending ruin. . . . The American General has made a thorough study of war in the swamps of the Chickahomi-ny, and has made himself a complete master in that most d flicult of professions. . . . He has manifested the unquestioned talent to save his army, in a manner not sufficiently to be admired, out of the most desperate of situations. Moreau made himself immortal by his famous retreat from the Iller to the Rhine in the year 1796. What s due to the American General-in-Chier, who conducted with a morally and physically exhausted army, through swampy, pathless country, covered with ancient forcets, and in the face of an enemy outnumbering him two to one, the most classical of all retreats recorded in military history without a single disaster?

OUR MULTIFORM CURRENCY.

We present below some reliable statistics and facts re found novel and valuable, in view of the momentous questions and interests concerning finance now undergoing discussion in Congress and by the people.

The whole number of Banks in the United States i estimated at 1,395, apportioned as follows, the branches

State Banks not being en	umerated in this estimate:
Maine 69	Georgia 31
New Hampshire 51	Alabama 7
Vermont 41	Louisians 11
Massachusetts 185	Ohie 21
Rhede Island 92	Indiana 25
Connecticut 73	Illinois 60
New York city 54	Kentucky 8
New York State 249	Tennessee 28
New Jersey 55	Missouri 8
Pennsylvania 81	Michigan 5
Delaware 9	Wisconsin122
Maryland 32	Iowa 7
District of Col 6	Minnesota 1
Virginia 30	Florida 2
North Carolina 12	Texas 1
South Carolina 18	Kaneas 1
Frary one of these Renks	has its apparetule approve

Every one of these Banks has its separately engraved and printed notes, differing in form or design pictorially, and each Bank issues the various denominations which by usage seem to have become a rule.

Our paper currency may therefore be designated as of the denominations of one, two, three, five, ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred, five hundred, and one thousand dollars This shows ten different denominations as the usual quota from the prominent old Banks in the Eastern and Middle "loyalty," and because we do not join in the cry, States. It may be stated, however, that of the Banks of or seek to harass the President by either the one | the West, &c. the larger denominations above named are rarely used-they seldom issue notes of denominations above fifty or one hundred dollars.

In view of these facts, and to the end that we may present a fair average exhibit, let us allow a x different torms of notes to each of these 1.395 Banks. The result of this attempt to disturb the President in the midst | this simple multiplication will give the formidable number of 8,370 varieties of notes in circulation and use from these accredited Banks.

Moreover, the varied issues of the " fraudulent, broken. and worthless Banks" should not be overlooked. Of this snumerated in the published list furnished by the "Descriptive List" for January, 1863. Such as these have heretofore contributed, and in many instances still contribute their quota to this promisquous catalogue.

One phase of our paper currency, engendered by this multiform system, calls for special notice and considerstion. We refer to counterfeiting. It may be safely stated that the art, as pursued in the United States, is without parallel, and that, without vaunt or byperbole, we can "best the world" on this our national specialtecounterfeiting. A species of literature, even unknown to the rest of the world, has been initiated among us; and no merchant or mechanic deems himself safe unless he consults the " Counterfeit Detector." These publications have become articles of "prime necessity," to the profit of the publishers, doubtless, if not to the community; and they are spawned weekly, semi-mouthly, and monthly in most of our cities. We need not enlarge upon this topic, amazing as it always appears to foreign observers and writers on these subjects.

The absolute facts, as detailed by those interested in keeping the records of counterfeits, appear monstrous and fabulous, even beyond credence. Of the various kinds it is estimated that there are about six thousand. How many of each kind must be conjectured, as we have no means of catechising the originators. It would seem, however, as the rule, that the better the Banks the more numerous the counterfeite. We cite, in illustration, that Massachusette has one hundred and eighty-five Banks. "Thompson's Re porter," of recent date, describes counterfeits on one hundred and sixty-nine of these, and "Gwynne & Day's" specifies one hundred and seventy-four. A like inference may be drawn from the same su horities in reference to the Banks of New York. Of three bundred and three Banks enumerated in that State, it is stated that the issues of only forty-five are not counterfeit d.

Of the various species of counterfeits, as they are called t is ascertained that but a small part of the whole in cir. culation is composed of bona fide "imitations" of the genuine notes. Those known as "alterations" number highest. One cause of this multiplicity of altered notes is attributable to the similarity of titles among Banks in different sections of the country. As, for instance, we find twenty-seven " Union" Banks, of which seven are in the State of New York. A yet further sid to "alters, tions" is in the frequent use of the same devices on notes of different Banks, and often of different Banks of the same name.

Next in number to the "alterations" come the " sou. rious," such as resemble in title only the notes for which they are intended to pass. These notes are from plates of broken and "b gus" Banks in most instances, although not unfrequently from the debris material of 'broken" or "retired" Bank-note engraving establish-

In view of such a promiscuous, multiform, and dubious circulation, we think it will be generally admitted by the public and by conservative bankers that a plan which, like that of Mr. Secretary Chase, proposes to put an end to these evils, deserves a favorable consideration.

IRON-CLADS ORDERED TO SEA

		ordered the following iron- sea and sent South at once:
Vessel	Where.	State of forwardness.
Sagamore	Greenpoint	Beady in two weeks. Ready in two weeks. Ready in a week.

RESTRICTIONS ON GOLD SPECULATIONS NEW YORK, FEB. 6 .- A bill was introduced in the Lerislature to day to prevent the Banks of the State selling payments—making void all contracts for the sale or pur-chase of specie, and prohibiting loans on specie, under penalty of the forfeiture of back charter.

FRENCH DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE

The Paris Moniteur of the 16 h December contains the official documents of the year, under the general name of the Exporé de la Situation de l'Empire, and which contains, esides the several summaries of the Ministers, similar to the reports of our Secretaries, a selection of the Diplomatic Correspondence, like that recently published by Mr. SEWARD. We have not seen a copy of this important document, but find in the New York Evening Post a compilation of a portion of the correspondence contained in it, as derived from abstracts given in the Paris correspondence of several London papers, and particularly in that of M. Gaillardet to the Courrier des Etats Unis, published in New York. From these abstracts the Post has prepared quite an interesting account of that part of the French Emperor's "Yellow Book," as it is called, which relates to the affairs of the United States.

The general conduct of the French Government towards the United States is described in the following paragraphs: "The year just ended has unfortunately produced no re-lution of the crisis through which the United States are passing. The struggle is carried on with alternations of es and reverses which threaten to be eternal. At the same time the sufferings imposed on other countries by the blocking up of one of the most productive countries to the world are being multiplied and aggravated. As far

as we are concerned, the distress feit by our co ton indus-try is well known.

"The Emperor's Government, therefore, watched with increasing solicitude the course of the events which had already attracted its serious attention during the past year It was especially anxious to conciliate the maintenance of a friendly neutrality with the duty of protecting its own countrymen, which every day become more importalize. It has not neglected any one of the opportunities which authorized it to explain its opinious to the Federal Government on the dangers and difficulties of the situation; but, while speaking with all sincerity, it was careful to give its observations the most friendly form, and it is bappy

" After having, till quite recently, confined its commu ications with the Federal Government to a kind of confi dential exchange of ideas, circumstances induced it to be lieve that the moment was come to try a more decided step. It thought that after two years of so disastrous a struggle the season when military operations are of ne-cessity suspended could not be suffered to pass without some effort to turn it to the advantage of peace and com-

"The Emperor's Government was desirous not to act slone. It therefore proposed to the Russian and English Governments to join it, so that together they might bring about an armistice for six months between the Federal Government and the Confederates of the South. The answer of the two Courts is already known. While declaring that they shared the feelings which had led us to make the proposal, they declined coming to the understanding

suggested. .. We certainly regretted this determination; but we were conscious of having obeyed the dictates of humanity and sound policy. We are convinced that our proposal presented collectively, might have contributed to prevent useless bloodshed and to hasten the moment of reconciliation, the conditions of which were of course to be left entirely to the free choice of the belligerent.

"There is evidently no sufficient ground for us to resume alone the initiative of a project which, as we thought from the first, ought to be undertaken with the concur rence of our allies; but we have taken care to let it be known at Washington that we were quite ready, if it should be desired, to facilitate, either alone or collectively, in any form that might be indicated, the work of peace in which we had wished Great Britain and Russia to join us."

Next we come to the correspondence, which lextends over fourteen columns of the Moniteur, and which our resders, to say the least, will pronounce extraordinary in many respects. Its two topics are Butler and Mediation, or Mediation and Butler.

A despatch of M. THOUVENEL, dated March 6th, 1862. inquires of M. Mercier whether, after the recent success obtained by the Federal arms in Kentucky and Tennessee, the moment has not arrived for the Washington Cabinet to examine "if the exclusive method of coercion is, after all, the best for remedying the evil already done, and that which can be easily foreseen if the war he centinued.

All Europe will with satisfaction see the Federal Govern ment seeking itself the basis of some transaction descined o drive away (conjurer) all troubles, and avoid furthe complications, "which will too early arrive during the present crisis it its prolongation would render more heavy than they are already the sacrifices suffered by commerce

and industry in Europe.

M. Mercier replies to M. Thouvenel March 31, 1862 that, according to his instructions, he had held an interview with Mr. Seward, and was awaiting the news of the fate of New Orleans. The French Minister afterwards eports a conversation which he had held with influentia personages, and who, in answer to his remark that the war acreased daily the bitterness between the North and th "We do not expect to reunite (ratacher) he South with us against its will, but we hope that after having relieved it from the influence of its present leaders, and having given it a severe lesson, it will return to the ight path. We are resolved to carry end, and if afterwards the majori y of the States persist m's separation, we will let them have it." M. Mercier b neves that this is the ruling opinion in the North; that the mass of the public is beginning to get tired of the war, but that its conservative instinct still binds it strongly to the Union, and which it hopes to see preserved by a melange of victories and concessions.

A despatch, bearing date April 13, throws a little light apon the journey undertaken to R chmond by Beron Mercier, and which excited much attention at the time. It appears that he undertook it at the suggestion of Ma seward himself, who then believed in the speedy re-establishment of the Union, and without baving previously in-formed the French Government of his intention. Before his departure M. Mercier came to au understanding with Lord Lyons, and repeated to Mr. Seward that the object his journey was not connected with the recognition of the South but only an attempt to bring about an arrange ment. The Secretary charged him to state at Richmond that the North was actuated by ne sentiments of revenge, and that great satisfaction would be afforded to the inhabitants by the sight of such Senators as the couth might consent to send.

Of the many conversations which M. Mercier mention having had at Richmond with several important personages, that of Mr. Benjamin deserves to be noted down. We quote from Mr. Mercier's despatch:

"I told Mr. Benjamin (writes Mr Mercier) that the object of my visit was simply to learn for myself the real state of affairs, and that I came to ask his aid in attaining . He replied that he would assist me with the greates pleasure, and that he would be charmed if I arrived at the

truth, which, according to all be could gather, appeared to be little known in the North. "I give you a summary, M. le Ministre, of what Mr. Benjamin said to me, and what I have learned from differ ent conversations held while in Richmond : 'We have (I was told) relied too much on Europe and the power of commercial interests; but, however that may be, you be convinced that we are determined to conquer our inde-pendence at all hexards. On this point the sentiments of our people are unanimous. They have already suffered much, but they will endure far more, if necessary, to accomplish their object. We do not disguise from ourselves that the Federals possess infinitely superior resources, and the command of the ocean; that they may, in the long run, make themselves masters of our posts. But in captur-ing our cities they will find only women, old men, and children. The whole population capable of bearing arms will withdraw into the interior, beyond the reach of gunboats, and, in presence of such a resistance, the North will be obliged to yield. We remember that, in the war of independence, the Engl sh mementarily held possession of nearly all the cities on the coast, but succumbed, not of nearly all the cities on the coast, but succumbed. But withstanding. The same result will now occur. The present situation is exactly similar to what it was then. Like the English the North fights to retain its power and wealth, and we, like the Americans, fight for independence. ments. Look at the women; they are foremest in urging their husbands, their sons, their brothers to take up their husbands, their sons, their brothers to take up arms. By their habits, our people are better prepared for a military life than those of the North, and, on equal terms, our troops have always had the advantage. Our measures are taken to hold Richmond as long as possible, and if at last we should be forced to abandon Virginia it would be certainly a heavy loss to us, but we should not despair. Moreover, we can, if absolutely necessary, defend ourselves, but the North cannot attack us without money. On the other hand, we will not hesitate aninstant to burn our cotton and our tobacco, rather than permit them to fall into the bands of the enemy."

"I have met here every important public personage, and all have held the same language and expressed to me the same sentiments. Among these persons many are known for the moderation of their character, and for their opposition to secession at the outset of the quarrel. The stion now arises whether the determination mously expressed to me are strong enough to resist every trial. I cannot attempt to decide, but I see many rea-sons for not doubting their perfect sincerity at this mo-ment. How, otherwise, could be explained the entire submission with which the people accept all the miseries to which circumstances condemn them?"

In the following despatch, dated July 28, 1862, M. Thou enel shows himself still more excited (cmu) by the duration of the war, the afflictions of which had for Europe just been aggravated by the adoption of the new tariff, which was almost equivalent to closing the United States market. France has persuated in maintaining the stric et

"But it is impossible to dissimulate that no Government | THE LATE NAVAL FIGHT OFF CHARLESTON. | left the scene of action and proceeded towards Charleston can remain indefinitely deaf to the complaints arising around it, when these complaints are the echo of the general sentiment of the country." "Now it is easy to per ceive," says he minister, "that the necessity of a solution of the American conflict appears each day more pressing, while at the same time the clearest minds of Europe tend more and more to doubt the possibility of a re-establish.

ment of the Union upon its former condition. . . It would be an error to suppose that an unfavorable spirit (un sentiment peu bienveillant) towards the Federal Government at all induces this opinion. No one desires separation, but, convinced that it is inevitable, it is desirable that it should be made under relations the most favorable to the ulterior relations of the two States to which it will

This despatch, in which M. Thouvenel gave his clearest upre-sions on the issue of the war, was met by another cepatch from M. Mercier, dated the 15th of the same mouth, in which the writer "does not think it a piece of temerity to suppose that the hour of peace may not be very far off," comparing the arrangements then existing with those of the present year; and he asks whether "this

great good, and supported by public opinion?"
The Imperial Government, however, did believe that The Imperial Government, however, did believe that the auspicious moment had arrived, and on the 18th of Sept-mber, 1862, M. Thouvenel asked M. Mercier to gather together all the information he could on this matter. Later, in a despatch dated November 6, and sigued not by Thouvenel, but by M. Drouyn de L'Huys, this latter gives to M. Mercier a confidential copy of the communication which he had just addressed to London and St. Petersburgh, adding the head of burgh, adding that he "had no doubts as to the benefit to he United States of a moderately long armistice," (une rève de quelque durée,) and "that he had at least the association in our amicable efforts of the two great Powers which we believe to be towards the United States animat-

s not the moment when Europ an mediation would be a

ed by feelings as friendly as our own."

Nevertheless, M. Mercier wrote on the 10th of November that the then recent elections indicated a change of opinion, a diversity of aspirations, but "seemed to be definitively, and above all in their practical consequences, altogether in opposition to the war to the end." cier then believes it "opportune for the French Govern-ment to prepare to take some conciliatory steps, which might aid in the re-establishment of peace." Eight days later—the 18th of November—he said, on the same aud-ject, that the essential point to be attained by a mediator was to prevent the renewal of hostilities in the spring, be cause, if a new campaign should be then begun, it would be very difficult to arrest it, and the culture of cotton, beginning in March, would be abandoned, so that it would be

difficult to say when it would be ever resumed.

But on exactly the same day, November 18th, M. Drouyn de L'Huys announced to M. Mercier the refusal of England and Russia to unite in the effort made by the French Government, unknown to its minister at Washington, hough in conformity with his known views. M. Drouyn le L'Huys announces that owing to the refusal of the other Powers to act in the matter, France will also abstain, but that "we will remain in the firm belief that the offer of our united good offices would have opened a perfectly acceptable way of hastening the denou-ment of the present crisis, and we do not abandon the hope of yet seeing others enter into our views.

The last phase of this diplomacy is a despatch addressed rom Compêgne, November 23, 1862, by M. Drouyn de L'Huys to Mr. Drayton, who had forwarded him information respecting the two belligerent parties, at the same time expressing the hope that this information would medify his opinion regarding the equilibrium of the respecive forces of the North and the South. M. de L'Buys recognises the fact that the information is calculated to give a good idea of a'l the resources of the Federal Government. But it is not the less true," says he, "that, notwithst anding the inequality of numbers and financial means, the conditions of the soil and climate seem to oppose invincible arguments to the progress of the war." "I am pleased," he adds, "to render homage with you to the courage evinced by the Americans on buth sides; but even this courage, while exciting the admiration of the world, is in this case only instrumental in rendering the more uncer-tain the results of battles, and in postponing the end of his disastrous and bloody war."

The Minister says that "the reception by England and Russis of the proposal of mediation prevents us from following out the matter, but that our amicable disposition owards the Americans remains unchanged."

AN IMPORTANT LINK.

We are glad to see that Mr. RICE has reported to the Senate, from its Military Committee, a bill to aid the contruction of the "Metropolitan Railroad," in connection lso with other connecting lines to the West and to the 'hesapeake bay. The proposed "Metropolitan" road, so called, chartered both by the State of Maryland and by longress, is a road by a direct line from Washington to the Point of Rocks, (instead of going round by Baltimore or the Relay House,) thence to Hagerstown, and there connecting with the whole net work of Pennsylvania railroads, and by Pittsburg to the great West, and shortening he present distance from Washing on to the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and Harper's Ferry nearly one-baif.

We have often felt surprise that the importance of this nk in the chain of railroad communication has not long ince arrested the earnest attention of Congress, particuarly the Western members of the body, and obtained for the work adequate aid and encouragement. Besides so greatly facilitating travel and mail transportation beween the West and the rest of Government, could any rithmetician undertake to ascertain the advantage which this short, direct, additional line of transportation from Washington to Harper's Ferry and Western Maryland portation of soldiers, munitions, and supplies, and to facility of military operations, during the last two years? The saving a mere money would have paid for the road twice over, and it might even have saved Harper's Ferry, with its immense lose of life, of prisoners, and munitions. The importance of the road, however, is too obvious to need any extended

DRAFTED MEN IN BATTLE.

We regret to see it stated, on good authority, that the drafted mea" engaged in the recent battle at Blackwater Va.) did not behave with courage. This remark applies o the 167th Regiment from Pennsylvania, who on this oceasion failed to sustain the high reputation which the gallant volunteers from their State have gained on so many stricken fields. An army correspondent thus describes the conduct of these "drafted men" in the first battle, we believe, in which any portion of the three hundred thousand

of their class has been engaged : "The regiments of the expedition were mostly new and behaved well under their first serious fire, with the exception of the One Hundred and Sixty-seventh Pennsylva nis, composed of drafted men. When ordered forward with the rest, at six o'clock, they remained lying in the road, to avoid the shells passing over them, and refused to stir. Gen. Corcoran, on hearing this, rode up to them, accompanied by Cel. Spear, and called for the Colonel. He was dangerously wounded, and did not reply. The Lieutenaut Colonel, Major, Adjutant, or any Capuain, were successively called for, without answer. The General then said that if any commissioned officer was there and would advance the regiment, he should be recommended for the Colonelcy. A Lieutenant, name unknown, then rose and endeavored to comply, but without effect. The General then appealed to them, for the honor of Pennsylvania, when an Orderly Sergeant sprurg up, saying, 'You can draft us but you can't make us fight. He was immediately struck on the head with the back of Col. Spear's sword and felled. Col. Spear desired to charge them with a company of ca-valry, but the General thought it better to leave them as

A GENERAL TO BE DISPOSED OF .- Several of the newspapers of the day are industriously asserting that Gen Butler is to be sent back to the Department of the Gulf, the Government having already repented of its course in removing him. Not to speak of the slurs thus indirectly east upon the course pursued at New Orleans by Gen. Banks-a General whose administrative capacity and judgment have rarely been questioned before in this quarterthese reports as to Gen. Butler's speedy return imply a very heavy accusation against the Government, which is represented as having changed the command of a great department so unadvicedly that the grounds of its action will not bear a month's examination. It seems far more probable that the navy may now be at work a second time carving out a new department for Gen. Butler. Possibly he may yet try a match with the people of Charleston. If

so, the world will watch with interest for the issue. [Boston Daily Advertiser.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.-A French paper says that at Thourette, in the department of the Ain, the curé, who is nearly eighty years of age, has always insisted, for the last thirty years, that the parents of every child he baptised should plant a fruit tree of some kind or other. The result is that this commune, which was formerly very unproduc-

OFFICIAL REPORT.

The following report from Admiral DUPONT of the attack of two Confederate iron-clads on the blockading squadron off Charleston was received at the Navy Department yesterday morning. It confirms the statement published yesterday that no United States vessel was lost during that engage-

FLAG-SHIP WABASH, Port Royal Harbor, February 2, 1863.

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy, &c. Sin: I have the honor to report that about four o'clock on the morning of the 31st ultimo, during the obscurity of a thick baze, two iron-clad gusboats came out of Charles ton by the main ship-channel, unperceived by the squadrop, and commenced a raid on the blockading fleet. Most of the latter were of the light class of purchased vessels two of the heaviest men-of-war (the Powhatan and Canandaigus) being at this port, coaling and repairing.

The Mercedita was the first vessel attacked. Her offi cers and crew had been particularly watchful during the night, to look out for suspected vessels, and at three o'clock A. M. slipped cable and overhauled a troop steamer running for the channel by mistake. She had returned to the anchorage, and Capt. Stellwagen had gone to his room a short time, leaving Lieut. Commander Abbot on deck, when one of the iron-clads suddenly appeared. Her appreach was concealed by the haze and mist of the atmo sphere. The vessel was immediately hailed and an order given to fire, but the iron-clad being close aboard, and laying low in the water, no guns could be brought to hear. A heavy rifle shell was fired from the enemy, which, enter ing the starboard side of the Mercedita, passed through her condenser and the steam drum of her port boiler, and exploded against the port side, blowing a hole in its exit some four or five feet square, killing the gunner, and by the escape of steam scalding a number of the men, and rendering her motive power apparently useless. Unable to see his guns, and being at the mercy of the enemy, who was lying alongside on his starboard quarter, all further resistance was deemed hopeless by Capt. Stellwagen, and he surrendered. The crew and officers were paroled. though nothing was said of the ship, the executive officer, Lieut. Commander Abbot, baving gone on board the ene my's gunboat and made the arrangements.

The iron-clad, leaving the Mercedita to her fate, to sink or not, next engaged the Keystone State, Commander Le Roy, who was also attacked by the other. Their fire was gal'antly returned; but a shell exploding in the forebold of this vessel, she was set on fire. Commander Le Roy kept off until it was got under, when he steered again for one of the iron-clade, ordered full steam and determined to try to run her down. The guns had been trained and depressed for a plunging fire at the moment of collision. and the ship had acquired a speed of twelve knots, when a shell or shot from the enemy passed through both the steam chests, wholly disabling her botlers and rendering ber powerless. Ten rifle shell struck the Keyston- State; two burst on her quarter deck, but most of them struck the hull, being near and below the water line.

In the mean time the Augusta, Commodore Panott; the Quaker C.ty, Commander Frailey; and the Memphis, Acting Lieut. Watmough, kept up a fire upon the enemy, di. verting their attention from the Keystone State, which was soon after taken in tow by the Memphis, and drawn away from the fire. The Augusta and Quaker City were both struck on their buils-the Memphis only in her rig-

The Housatonic, Capt. Taylor, gave chase, and a shot from her struck the pilot house of one of the iron-clade, doing it, it is thought, some damage, and carrying away one of ber flags.

The rebel vessels then passed to the northward, receiving the fire of our ships, and took refuge in the swash

channel, behind the shoals. The only casualties were on the Mercedita and the Keystone State. On the Keystone State they were very large. About one-fourth of her crew were killed and wounded, and among the former the medical officer of the ship, Assistant Surgeon Jacob H. Gotworth, who was scalded to death whilst rendering surgical aid to one of the wounded men. Nine of those who died perished from the escape of steam when the boilers and steam chimney were penetrated; and among the wounded the greater number received their injuries from the same cause.

which the surrender was made. This investigation has b en asked for by Capt. Stellwagen.

I received this intelligence on Safurday at three P. M by the Augusts, which ship immediately retur el to Charleston. The Mercedita soon after arrived, and the Keystone State in tow of the Memphis, when the latter vessel was at once sent back to the station.

The James Adger, Commander Patterson, was also tow ed back as she was coming into Rort Royal, and ordered to Charleston; and the Powhatan, through the commendable zeal of Capt. Godon, was got ready by nine o'clock P. would have been to the Government, to the army, to trans. M. I had the channel and box buoys lighted, when she

passed out eafely. I forward herewith copies of the reports of Capt. Stellwagen, Lieut. Com. Abbot, and Capt. Leroy. Also the reports of the casualties on board the Mercedita and the Keystone State. Ou the Mercedita there were four killed and three wounded; on the Keystone State twenty killed and twenty wounded.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. DUPONT, Rear Admiral, &c.

UNOFFICIAL ACCOUNT. It appears from the statement of an intelligent eye-wit-

ness that the cause of the attack of the rebel rams on our equadron was owing to the capture by us of the English steamer Princess Royal, the captain and pilot of that vessel having escaped ashore during the darkness of the night and communicated intelligence to the enemy. The Princess Royal endeavored to run the blockade by

way of Beach Inlet on the 29 h, but was discovered by the pilot-boat Blunt, and, on the signal being given, the gunboat Unadilla proceeded towards her and captured the raluable prize, which the Unadilla carried to the side of the Housatonic and laid there till near daylight, when the thunder of heavy guns was heard, accompanied by short flashes of light.

As daylight broke it was discovered on board the Prin ess Royal that two rebel rame, coming from the direction of Stono inlet, were steaming toward our fleet. One of the rams steamed immediately towards the United States and struck her at the water's edge, keeling her over. At the same time she fired a shot into her starboard boiler, which expleded it and caused the death of three persons including the gunner, by shot and steam. The ram then Stellwagen replied, "we are in a sinking condition," and at the same time lowered one of his small boats.

The ram answered our hail by replying, "We are the Confederate ram Palmetto State; do you surrender?" This was repeated three times, Capt. Stellwagen at each inquiry replying, "I am in a sinking condition." The rebels finally answered, "G—d d—n you to hell; if you don't surrender we will blow you out of water; send your

The small boat which Capt. Stellwagen had lowered then conveyed his Lieutenant and Executive officer to the side of the rebel ram. The request of the efficer to be admitted abourd the ram was refused. The Lieutenant repeated Capt. Stellwagen's statement in the following words: "We are in a sinking condition." The officer of the ram answered, "You cannot sink lower than the rails. We cannot take you aboard. We will accept of your parole." The Executive officer of the Mercedita then gave his parole and returned to his ship.

The Mercedita then steamed off into a place of safety,

the rebels having been successfully deceived as to her conthe rebels having been successfully deceived as to her con-dition by the report that she was sinking. Her small boat slone was in this condition, but it was received by the rebel of ficers as a guarantee of the state of the vessel itself. The Mercedita lay in shoal water, and hence the reply of the enemy that "she could not sink lower than her rails." bel ram then steamed towards the Keystone State and sent a shot through her steam drum. This shot created great havoe on board the steamer, causing the instant the shot, and the rest were scalded to death by the steam which escaped from the boilers. Fifteen of the crew were also wounded.

In the mean time, while these startling events were ocgusboat Housatonic, which sheltered the Princess Boyal, was engaged with the other ram, and succeeded in driving her off, her guns being sufficiently depressed to strike the

ram at every shot. At half past six o'clock in the morning both of the rame

During the attack the steamer Princess Loyal succeeded in getting out of danger and proceeded to Port Royal. The Mcrcedits steamed down to Port Royal, escaping with only one of her boilers injured. The steamer Keyslone State was entirely disabled by the attack of the rebel rams, but she was towed down to Port Royal by the steamer Memoria.

steamer Memphis

The blockading fleet extended a distance of fifteen miles

The blockading fleet extended a distance of fifteen miles and the gunboat Mercedita, with the Keystone State, occupied the most southern point, off the south channel, and about five miles from Fort Sumter.

The only raising of the blockade was that occasioned by the concentration of the whole fleet at one point, in obedience to the signals from the figs-ship, and by sunset the same evening all the vessels had resumed their stations. The fight lasted about two hours.

THE CAPTURE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

The Navy Department has received the following fficial report of the capture of the Princess Royal, from Com. Dupont :

FLAGSHIP WABASH,
Port Royal Harbor, (S. C.) January 31, 1863.

Hon Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy.

Sir: I have the honor to report the capture, on the morning of the 29th iustant, of the screw steamer Princess Royal, whilst attempting to run the blockade into

Charleston.

The following are the circumstances connected with

The following are the circumstances connected with her capture:

After standing in a mile and a half, Lieutenant Commander Quackenbush observed a steamer standing along the land in the direction of Charleston. He fired two shots at her, when her course was altered towards the beach, and she was run a hore. Two officers and an armed boat's crew were immediately sent to take possession. She proved to be the iron steamer (propellor) Princess Royal, last from Bermuda, four days out, and laden, as far as he could learn, with rifled guns, ammunition, steam-engines for the iron-clade, and an assorted cargo.

On taking possession, it was ascertained that the captain, supercargo, pilot, and some of the petty officers and a passupercargo, pilot, and some of the petty officers and a par-senger, had left the ship when she struck and escaped to the shore, which fact was substantiated by the chief mate, under supercargo and chief engineer, as well as by seeing the two missing boats lying on the beach, deserted.

By the active exertions of Acting Master E. Van Sice, and Acting Ensign R. W. Cornell, of the Unadilla, assisted by boats' crews from the United States steamers Houseby boats crews from the United States steamers Housa-tonic and Augusta, and schooners Blunt and America, aided by two of the engineers of the prize, she was got off without sustaining any injury.

There not being sufficient coal on board of the Princess Royal to send her North, she was ordered by the senior

officer to this port to obtain a supply. No papers pertaining to ship or cargo were found on board of her at the time, excepting the shipping articles and a log-book; but a ter her arrival here. Acting Master Van Sice, of the Unaatter her arrival here, Acting Master Van Sice, of the Una-dilla, the officer in charge of the prize, discovered, acci-dentally, in looking over the side, certain papers which had lodged in the feuder, in the attempt to throw them everboard. These refer principally to the cargo, and with the papers before mentioned (which were all that were found on board) will be forwarded to the U. S. District Judge at Philadelphia.

The under supercargo Hoxley, the chief mate Shaw, the captain's clerk, (a young man named Hacksley, whose father is said to be interested in the cargo,) two of the engineers, and several of the firemen go North in the prize. The rest of the crew will be sent by the first opportunity.

I desire to call the attention of the Department to the fact that in this prize are two complete engines, said to be of great power, and intended for iron clads.

Very respectfully, your ob dient servant, S. F. DUPONT, Rear Admiral, Commanding South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

RECRUITING NEGRO SOLDIERS.

Correspondence of the New York Times. FORTRESS MONROE, FEB 3, 1863.

An authorization having been granted by the Government Gov. Andrew, of Massachusetts, for the enlistment of colored men as United States soldiers, the latter has requested Mr. C. B. Wilder, Superintendent of Contrabands for this Department, to enlist such as desire it. Having obtained the concurrence of Gen. Dix, as Military Governor, Mr. Wilder immediately held out prospects of promonor, Mr. Wilder immediately held out prospects of the first in the black regiment to certain commissioned and non-commissioned officers here, and the result is a spirited recruitment on their part of able men, who will render good service. In this neighborhood, including that of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Yorktown, at least a battalion, and profolk, Suffolk, and Yorktown, at least a battalion. The bably a regiment, will be raised within a fortnight. The men will then be sent to Washington, and endued with blue coals and red unmentionables, as part of the Massachusetts

To those colored men who do not wish a soldier's life, and who may not have desirable employment, another open-ing presents i'self. The Secretary of War has at last de-finitely authorized Mr. Wilder to appropriate vacated lands of rebels in this department to the use of those colored As the Mercedita was the only vessel which surrendered, I have directed a court of inquiry to examine into the cirfor the time being, and, should peace speedly ensue, will be held only during the present year. The occupants wil be held only during in present year. The occupants win be placed in charge of white superintendents, who will each have under his control as many laborers as the farm may find employment for. The blacks will either be paid for their labor monthly, or wait until the sale of produce may find employment for. The blacks will either be paid for their labor monthly, or wait until the sale of produce remnuerates them—annell advances for necessities being made them when required. Superintendents will also be paid from the proceeds of sales. Attention will especially be given to the cultivation of veget bles for the Northern markets. Free freight will be given to this produce, on Government transports, to any point where it may be cent, and in giving this privilege the War Department trusts that private benevolence will furnish all other facilities.

Attached to each farm will be a cchool, where children will be taught in the day and adults at night. The teachers will be independent in their action of the farm superintendents. All this is intended both to relieve the Government of the one thousand dollars a day it now pays for the

ment of the one thousand dollars a day it now pays for the support of contrabands in this department, and to prove, what is doubted by many, that negroes will work in a state of freedom. The result of the experiment will be

A SHOCKING CATASTROPHE IN RICHMOND.

From the Richmond Examiner of January 28. Between four and five o'clock yesterday morning, while upwards of a thousand Federal exchanged prisoners were being conducted from the Confederate States prison to the Petersburg depot for transportation to City Point, the foot bridge spanning the basin at Eighth street gave way while the line was passing over it, and went down a wreck in ten feet of water, carrying with it all upon the bridge,

from fifty to eighty in number.

The utmost excitement at once ensued among the prisoters, and the members of several companies of the City battalion, who had them under guard, exerted themselves strenuously to rescue them, but the morning being dark and cloudy their efforts were attended with but partial success. On calling the roll twenty-seven of the prisoners were found missing, or at least not answering to their names. Two of the City battalion were also missing, and

ti is feared they have shared the fate of the prisoners. Notwithstanding the Immentable mishap the prisoners were sent on to Petersburg by the regular train. During the morning throngs of persons assembled on both banks of the basin and at the bridge to witness the preparations for recovering the bodies from the basin. At the suggestion of Corners. for recovering the bodies from the basin. At the suggestion of Coroner Sanxay the outlets were of ened for the purpose of drawing the water off; but the basin emptied slowly, and up to 5 o'clock P. M. yesterday but three bodies had been discovered, two of them Federal prisoners, and the third the body of a Confederate soldier that had avided by been in the water a month or many parameters. and the third the body of a Confederate soldier that had evidently been in the water a month or more. Darkness approaching, the further search for the victime was post-poned until this morning, when an official investigation will

THE CONDITION OF IRELAND. The Cork Examiner of January 17th contains the follow ng remarks on the condition of Ireland :

To disguise the fact that the condition of the farmin asses, especially those of small holdings, is a very paint one at this moment would be idle. It is confessedly as bad as it has been since 1847. A succession of wretched harvests has so reduced their resources as to render them dependent upon food not the product of their own fields. What would not be the rush from Ireland to the States were the war at an end, and were industry and enterprises of trade, manufacture, and commerce again to resume their peaceful sway? We, for our part, believe it would be tremendous. If things go on as they are—if inducements to fligh are offered to our people—what will be the population of Ireland in 1871, now eight years distant? The probability is that we shall not have more than four millious of people s that we shall not have more than four millious of peo in the country, if we have to many,"

DEATH OF HORACE VERNET.

France has just lost her great historical painter. Horace Verner died in Paris on the 17th of January, aged nearly seventy-four years, having been born in Paris on the 30th of June, 1789. He was the son of Carle Vernet, a great battle painter, the grandson of Jeseph Vernet, the great marine painter, whose fatter, Antoine Vernet, was also a painter. He began to paint when quite a youth, and soon showed that he inherited the talent of the family. It would be impossible to give any account of his works with out filling several columns. But the palaces and galleries of France owe some of their most splendid treasures to his genius; and the great battles of the nation are gloriously recorded on the canvass be has suriched. He leaves no family. His only daughter was married to Paul Delano family. His only daughter was married to Paul Dela-roche, and she died childless.—Post.